

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present response is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, and 8 are independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at paragraph [0129]-[0131] of Applicants' corresponding published application. By way of example and not limitation:

[0129] As described above, in the video camera system 30, the imaging data D1 output only from the video camera 11 that the user selects from a plurality of video cameras 11 can be used as the target data of the data copy operation executed on the personal computer 12. While the node ID select section 31 and control section 25 are independently provided here, the process of the node ID select section 31 may be executed by the control section 25.

[0130] For example, in the video camera system 40 shown in FIG. 12 in which the same parts as those in FIG. 3 are indicated by the same reference numerals, a plurality of the personal computers 12 are connected to the single video camera 11. In this configuration, a node ID select section 41 is added to the video camera 11, and the personal computers 12 other than the personal computers 12 connected to the video camera 11 through the communication cable 13 are connected to each other through the communication cable 42.

[0131] Since the communication cables 13 and 42 conform to IEEE 1394 standard, unique node IDs respectively assigned to devices that are connected to each other through the communication cable 13 and 42 can be used to select the target device to/from which the video camera 11 sends and receives commands or responses from a plurality of the personal computers 12. In practice, the node ID select section 41 of the video camera 11 selects the previously stored node ID corresponding to the specified personal computer 12 to allow the digital interface 20 not to send/receive the commands or responses issued based on the controlled state monitoring program to and from the personal computers 12 that correspond to other node IDs than the selected node ID.

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,481 to Watanabe, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Watanabe”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,446 to Kanda (hereinafter, merely “Kanda”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

... node ID selecting means for selecting a target device from a plurality of personal computers and external recording devices to/from which the imaging device sends and receives commands or responses ... (emphasis added)

Applicants submit that Watanabe and Kanda, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Watanabe and Kanda fail to disclose or render predictable “node ID selecting means for selecting a target device from a plurality of personal computers and external recording devices to/from which the imaging device sends and receives commands or responses” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4 and 8 are also patentable, and Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections thereto.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as

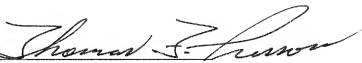
acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicant reserves the right to address such comments.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Russell P. Blaise
Reg. No. 66,567
(212) 588-0800